Yi2
7398
F11

On Critical Days

I have said all ~~fev~~ diseases have their Remissions or Intermissions. This is more evidently the case with fevers. they are said to terminate by means of paroxysms on certain days which have been called Critical. ~~they were observable~~ These days were first observed in the mild & Uniform climate of Greece. ~~and they~~ Hippocrates has left an account of them. ~~they~~ were easily discerned in his practice, for he never disturbed the operations of nature; But in spite of the changes which climate ~~induces on fevers~~, and artificial modes of cure induces on fevers, ~~they~~ Crises are still to be seen, more especially in the ~~diseases~~ fevers of this Country.

~~I have said~~ Dr Senac has ~~proved~~ supposed the tertian to be the primary & original form of fever. Continual fevers begin with this form & retain it ~~to the~~ on the 3. 5. 7. 9. 11.d days.

after which they lose^{2} it, & proceed in the Quartan form to the 14. 17. & 20. — After the 20th it is said they terminate on the 27, 35, & 42nd days - but of these septenary periods, I believe there are no proofs.

The bilious fever in all its grades certainly observes a regard to the critical days that have been mentioned. ~~They~~ The yellow fever ~~of~~ in this city generally terminated on a tertian day - that is on the 3rd 5th or 7th. It conformed under all the modes of its treatment with the same regularity to those days in Virginia in 1741 according to Dr Mitchell, nor should ~~we~~ we reject critical days because these fevers occasionally terminate on even days, for the Crisis as Dr Jackson has judiciously observed, often ~~terminates~~ happens on a critical or odd day, when death, or a favourable Crisis does not occur till the next ~~day~~ or the even day. In the former

V again - ~~but~~ of 280 cases of fever which Dr Wm Brown attended in the Infirmary of Edinr 170 of them terminated on critical days, which is more than 1/2 - ~~but~~ Hippocrates says 2/3d of 163 terminated on critical days. This difference in the proportion of crises in the latter instance arises from ~~the~~ uniform character imposed upon fevers by the Climate of Greece, and from Hippocrates not interrupting the Operations of nature. Dr Hoffman who practised =

tyra ovg-

~~The~~ whole course of ~~a~~ fever has been compared to the annual revolution of the earth. Its Daily paroxysms to the earth's diurnal revolutions

~~Dr Hoffman who practised~~ =

~~+ Dr Ashorn says of 24 patients~~

case the time of dying is only protracted, and in the latter, the recovery is often imperceptible from the extreme debility left by the fever. —

~~But~~ Of 60 continual fevers Dr Jackson tells us in his Acct. of the Diseases of Jamaica, 10 terminated on the 3rd day, — 10 on the 5th, — 20 on the 7th, — 10 on the 9th: 5 on the 11th, and 2, on the 17th — in all 47 ended on critical days, & all of them, except one, ended favourably. On even days, or days not critical 3 terminated on the 13th 1 on the 6th; 6 on the 8th & 1 on the 10th all of which (11 in number) ended in death. Of the remaining two nothing is said.

V From all these facts, there is evidently a foundation for a belief in ~~the~~ the critical days of Hippocrates. The present modes

~~that died under his care ~~he attended~~ in ~~+~~ pleurisies 4 died on the 4th: 3 on the 5th: 3 on the 8th: 2 on the 11th: 1 on the 14, & 2 on the 4th or 5th: Deducting the two doubtful ones — 7 only died on ~~odd~~ even~~

~~A Burt~~ = in a Northern Climate observed the following issue in certain fevers which he has named. An ephemera he says terminates ~~in~~ in 24 hours. A synochea fever without local affection in 4 or 7 days. A mild pneumony on the 4th ~~and~~ or 7th. A severe Pneumony on the ~~7. 11. or~~ 14th ~~& generally~~ and frequently in ~~or~~ ~~by~~ ~~Sweat or a Diarrhœa~~ an erysipelas. A He=patitis — on the 7. 11. or 14th & generally in ~~by be~~ sweats or a Diarrhœa. Ardent fevers in 7. or 14 days. The plague on the 4th. 7th & 11th & ~~the~~ petechial state of fevers on the 7. 11. & 14th days.

The usual signs of the crisis of a fever = ~~are 1 sweats diffused equally over the whole~~

of practice in fevers which consists in destroying the operations of nature as much as possible in them, has led to treat them with too much neglect.✝ But several important Advantages may be derived from an attention to them.

1 In continual fevers or protracted Tertians (for such are all continued fevers) where the remissions are not Observable, or not attended to, the presumption is that the fever will be in greater force (to use a military phrase) on a Critical day than on any Other. This force may be internal, or ~~centrif~~ Centripetal, and tho' not attended with Signs of violence to the System, may do immense mischief to the Viscera.

— On these days then Evacuations particularly ~~such as~~ V.S ~~& purging &c.~~ should be used

v when they do not, the more feeble ~~spa~~=
exacerbations may be aſsisted by Remedies ∴
calculated to produce a Crisis, or to weaken
a disease - particularly Sweating. by 2d: By atten=
=ding to the days on which fevers remit, we may give purges
with more advantage.

= will be mentioned under the head of the
Prognosis. I shall only remark here that
fevers sometimes terminate without any
perceptible evacuations of any kind from
the body. Dr Sydenham ascribes this to the
morbific matter which produces fevers being so
aſsimilated with the healthy fluids as to destroy
its Activity. But this is not ~~cannot be~~ the case. The
discharges which take place ~~in those~~ at the Crisis of
fevers are ~~not~~ neither Acrid, nor morbid. They
are the effects of a general relaxation of the system
by the restoration of healthy Action in all its parts.
~~The absence of these discharges arises~~ The =

in preference to ⁵rising ~~them~~ it on days not
critical - when the symptoms of violent
Action require them & v: But +

v ~~3~~ 4 where any doubt is entertained of the
Use of Bark, or of Stimulants, it will be safest
to give them on a non critical day, that
is, when the fever is weakest in force. If
they do no ~~some~~ good, they will do less
harm on that day, than on any

Obs: ~~But~~ a paroxysm be ~~to~~ more severe on an
+ ~~2~~ 3 be ~~By~~ If ~~attending to critical~~
even, than on an odd, or critical day,
then summons all your skill, and all
the power of medicine. The fever in this
case ~~p~~ is extremely dangerous, ~~Alarming~~, and Unless weak=
=ned ~~on the~~ before the 5th day generally
ends ~~on~~ in death, as Dr Jackson's ex=
=perience fully verifies. v —

— apparent absence of those Discharges arises from their being conveyed out of the System so slowly as to escape observation. — Such fevers are said to *taper off*. When they terminate on a critical day, they are said to *snap off*.

But a Crisis does not always follow general Sweats nor a Sediment in the ~~Urine~~. Morgagni describes a fever in which general & easy Sweats ushered in death, & Sir Jno Pringle says he saw Cases of Camp fever in which death followed a Sediment in the Urine.

5 By attending to the days on which fevers
4 most commonly terminate, we may keep up the hopes & confidence of our patients, ~~by~~ and establish our Characters for judgement by predicting the day in which they will recover. These days alter with the season. ~~Thr~~ Aug: in they are on the 3:d & Sep: 2:d 3, & 5: October 5, & 7th: in bilious fevers in our climate:

I formerly mentioned the Opinions & Observations of D:r Balfour on the influence of the full & change of the moon on fevers. He has proved that the fevers of Bengal ~~[illegible]~~ are subject to exacerbations three days before, & three days After ~~that~~ those two periods of the moon. He proves further, that ~~fevers~~ the attacks & relapses of fevers occur at those periods, more frequently than at the intermediate periods. These ~~changes~~ phaenomena were observed by D:r Lind in the Bengal fever of 1762. He ascribes them to

+ In our pathology I ascribed these attacks & exacerbations
& relapses of fevers hitherto to the influence of light or darkness upon
the body from the presence or absence of the moon. Rarity of air
also. V Active medicine should be given on

that day.

2 To guard more carefully against exciting causes on the lunar days than on any others.

3 To guard more carefully against relapses on those days, than on the intermediate days. —

4 To give tonics, and preventives more liberally on days not lunar, than on lunar days - for debility ~~is~~ then favours their more successful exhibition.

4 I am surprised at the opinion given by Dr Lind of the ~~inf~~ cause of lunar influence upon fever ~~when~~ after the fact he relates of the relapses that took place in ~~Ben~~ the fever which he describes from an eclipse of the moon.
See above +